

Senate Sponsor:
Sen. Carlene M. Walker

Co-sponsor:

Key Points:

- Supports working families
- Creates efficiencies
- Improves program accuracy

House Sponsor:
Rep. Sheryl Allen

Co-sponsor:

Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Peggy Wallace



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

Utah's Job Connection

BILL # HB 37

TITLE: PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY:

- Simplified reporting has proven to be a valuable support for low-income working families who receive public assistance. Simplified reporting allows working recipients to decrease interaction with DWS while working to increase their family income.
- Implementing simplified reporting will reduce the need for public assistance recipients to interact with DWS. This will help DWS control the increasing costs of rising caseloads.
- Forty-five states have implemented the simplified reporting option contained in the 2002 Farm Bill. These states no longer have to count certain food stamp quality control errors against themselves. Implementing simplified reporting will allow DWS to remain competitive in program accuracy with other states.
- DWS is confident Utah will see positive results from implementing simplified reporting: however, 76-8-1203 requires that persons who apply for or receive public assistance must report certain changes within ten days after the date of the change. Simplified reporting modifies what a recipient is required to report between recertification periods. This statute must be amended before DWS can move forward with a plan to implement simplified reporting.

FAQ's:

Q: Will this change reduce the department's ability to prosecute public assistance fraud?

A: No. Recipients can still be prosecuted for fraud if they do not comply with the established reporting requirements.

For more information contact:

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Simplified Reporting- Statutory Changes 2006

76-8-1203. Disclosure required -- Penalty. (1) Each person who applies for public assistance shall disclose to the state agency administering the public assistance each fact that may materially affect the determination of his eligibility to receive public assistance, including his current: (a) marital status; (b) household composition; (c) employment; (d) income; (e) receipt of monetary and in-kind gifts which would affect the client's eligibility; and (f) ~~other resources assets which would affect eligibility~~. (2) Any person applying for public assistance who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fails to disclose any material fact required to be disclosed under Subsection (1) is guilty of public assistance fraud as provided in Section **76-8-1206**. (3) With the exception of clients receiving public assistance from the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and/or the Department of Health (DOH), [A]any client who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fails to disclose to the state agency administering the public assistance any change in a material fact required to be disclosed under Subsection (1), within ten days after the date of the change, is guilty of public assistance fraud as provided in Section **76-8-1206**. (4) Any client who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fails to disclose to the DWS or the DOH any material change at the time of review or recertification, whichever comes first, is guilty of public assistance fraud as provided in Section 76-8-1206.